

# LAWYER

## Position description - 21 May 2020

Are you a lawyer with a passion for environmental justice? We are seeking a lawyer with 3+ years' post-graduation legal experience to work with us in our clean air program.

The program aims to reduce the harmful impacts of pollution on local communities and to significantly improve air pollution regulation for the benefit of people and the environment. The role will have a specific focus on the Hunter Valley and NSW Central Coast.

Working within a collaborative and multidisciplinary team, the lawyer will provide legal advice and support to communities impacted by pollution, run litigation under supervision from the Principal Lawyer, and assist with strategy and execution of community campaigns for law reform. The capacity and willingness to work closely with local communities on pollution, energy and other issues is essential. The lawyer will receive training and support appropriate to their needs and level of experience.

The position is a full-time fixed-term position for 12 months, with the possibility of extension beyond this date depending on funding. The position is based in Newcastle but working from Sydney or elsewhere in NSW would be considered for a candidate prepared to travel.

The candidate must be admitted to practice or eligible for admission to practice in Australia.

**Environmental Justice Australia is an equal opportunity employer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTQI people and people with a disability are encouraged to apply.**

**Applications close Monday 1 June 2020.**

## Responsibilities

- › Under the direction of senior lawyer/s, provide high-quality legal advice (both written and oral) and representation in matters related to air pollution, coal pollution and energy:
  - o obtain instructions, identify legal issues, research applicable law and prepare advice, conduct file management;
  - o manage litigation matters – including briefing barristers, initiating proceedings, preparing evidence, document and file management, and instructing in Court.
- › Deliver community legal education programs including seminars and workshops.
- › Identify and provide training and support to community groups relevant to the program.
- › Contribute to legal and program strategy development as part of a collaborative team.
- › Engage in policy and law reform work.
- › Engage with the media and contribute to EJA's communications objectives.
- › Participate in all relevant aspects of EJA planning, review and reporting. Contribute to the EJA team and the running of the organisation and office, including volunteer supervision.

## Selection criteria

### Essential

- › Admission to practice law or eligibility to be admitted to practice law in Australia.
- › 3+ years' post-graduation legal experience.
- › Commitment to environmental or social justice issues.
- › An enthusiasm to work closely with local communities to support their campaigns and legal needs. Experience working with local communities preferred.
- › Good file management skills, including the capacity to consistently run and maintain files with minimal administrative support.
- › Excellent written and oral communication skills including demonstrated ability to communicate legal concepts in clear language and prepare written legal advice.
- › Initiative, energy, self-motivation, and ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a collaborative team environment.
- › An ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines.
- › Willingness to travel within NSW frequently and interstate on occasion (once COVID restrictions ease and it is safe to do so).

### Desirable

- › Experience with NSW planning and environment law and environmental issues.
- › Experience running litigation matters.
- › Holds practicing certificate without supervision requirement.
- › Experience working on environmental and social change campaigns.

## Terms and conditions

Terms and conditions for these roles will be negotiated based on the following:

- > The position is a full-time position, but four days per week would be considered for an exceptional candidate.
- > The role is based in Newcastle NSW, but Sydney and other NSW locations will be considered provided you are willing to travel to Newcastle frequently (once COVID restrictions ease and it is safe to do so). Occasional overnight travel to Melbourne will be also be required.
- > Out-of-hours work is required occasionally.
- > Terms and conditions of employment are based on the SCHADS award and Community Legal Sector Multi-Business Agreement with an over-award salary of \$72,380 to \$98,510 depending on experience. (Salary would be pro-rated for a part-time position.)
- > EJA staff are currently working from home due to COVID restrictions. The successful candidate will provided with some support to set up working from home if needed.

## How to apply

Interested? Send us a brief application comprising:

- > your resume; and
- > a statement of no more than 3 pages detailing why you want to work with us and addressing the selection criteria outlined above.

Email your application to Nicola Rivers, Director of Advocacy and Research at [nicola.rivers@envirojustice.org.au](mailto:nicola.rivers@envirojustice.org.au). Please do not send hard copies. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by email.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Nicola Rivers before applying to discuss the position and your suitability on (03) 8341 3106.

**Closing date: Monday 1 June 2020 at 9am**